

**July 26, 2010**

## **St. Joseph's Provides Additional Information on Trauma Patient Identification**

The typical process for determining patient identification during a trauma situation is to ask for any discernable marks, scars, bone breaks or past issues that might make a positive identification. The hospital does not conduct finger printing or check for dental records during a trauma situation, because the overwhelming emphasis is on saving the patient's life. But every effort is made to make a clear and convincing determination of the patient's identification.

As doctors struggled to save the patient's life, we could not readily tell the patient's identity. We interviewed family members that evening and asked for any discernable visual information to make a positive identification.

From the information that was provided to the hospital that evening, we believed that the patient was Marlena Cantu. DPS communicated that information to the family.

During this timeframe, staffing at the hospital was at optimal levels, and there was never an issue of not enough medical personnel. This has been incorrectly reported in some media stories.

When the Medical Examiner compared dental records, it came to light that the patient was in fact Abby Guerra.

The Guerra family has asked that she now be listed as a "no information" patient so St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center cannot provide information on her status or condition.

St. Joseph's has been working closely with the families and providing intensive care to Abby. This exceptional clinical team caring for her will continue to do everything possible to help her recover.

We are here to support both families during this difficult time.